

COMET HALE-BOPP

Prophecy and Controversy

The flypast of Comet Hale-Bopp in early 1997 is an event exciting the prophecy-watchers and creating controversy among astronomers.

Is this the return of the legendary Great Comet, and has it brought a 'companion' along for the ride as it rockets through our solar system?

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RETURN OF THE DRAGON

by Tom Kay

For thousands of years prophets have spoken of the coming of an enlightened "New Age" that will be inaugurated by great Earth changes and unusual heavenly activity. One very special event, the arrival of a "Great Comet" or "Star" to our solar system, is said to herald these New Age birth pains, the Second Coming, and a marvellous, peaceful era.

In July 1995, amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp discovered a new comet, located near the Sagittarius constellation. It was the most distant comet ever reported by amateurs to the International Astronomical Union. Their namesake, Hale-Bopp, will be closest to Earth in the northern Spring (southern Autumn) of 1997. Scientific evidence suggests that this huge and uncommonly bright heavenly object may be the Comet that's been predicted for so long by so many.

In the 1930s and '40s, the famous "Sleeping Prophet" Edgar Cayce, of the United States, prophesied that massive Earth changes will create new maps of the world. Gordon-Michael Scallion's "Future Map" illustrations and prophecies are strikingly similar. But is there a causative event?

In the early 1980s, British intuitive, David Jevons, said: "I believe that the major Earth changes will be initiated by what I will call 'the Fiery Messenger'. There is even now a star of great power proceeding towards our solar body. The star, at this moment, is invisible to the human or even telescopic eye, but it is set on a path which will bring it into conjunction with our planetary system. As it passes by, it will affect the motions of all the planets of our system, and therefore will bring about changes on the surface of the planets themselves. The effect of the passage will be to set in motion the Earth Changes that are prophesied. Various lands will sink; others will rise..."

After his narration, Jevons was asked: "The star that was spoken of—has it passed through this solar system before?"

"Yes."

"Is it Halley's comet?"

"No. It is far bigger than that."

Researcher David Solomon has estimated that the comet returns every 4,000 years: "It was known to ancient peoples as a vast, fiery body that, when it entered the solar system, caused planetary catastrophes. It was known to the Greeks as Typhon, to the Mayans as celestial Quetzalcoatl, to the Sumerians as Nibiru, to the Phoenicians as the Great Phoenix, to the Egyptians as Apep or Seth, and to the ancient Chinese as the Great Red Dragon."

Sixteenth-century English prophet, Mother Shipton, poeticised:

*The gods will send the Dragon back/ to light the sky his tail will crack
upon the Earth and rend the Earth/ and man shall flee, King, Lord and serf.*

Saint Hildegard, a seer who lived in Germany in the 12th century, said: "The Comet, by its tremendous pressure, will force much out of the ocean and flood many countries... The Great Nation across the ocean, inhabited by people of different ancestry, will be devastated by earthquakes, storms and great waves of water, causing much want and plagues. It will be divided and in great part be submerged."

Other heavenly events may add to the mix. The year 1999 is unusual because there will be two solar eclipses and a lunar eclipse. Furthermore, the Leonids meteor storm is due to return in 1999. The storm, from the Comet Temple-Tuttle, is very dense and has been awesome and chaotic in the past.

John wrote in Revelation: "...there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp...there was a great earthquake..."

Nostradamus predicted: "After great misery for mankind, an even greater approaches when the Great Cycle of the Centuries is renewed... In the sky will be seen a fire, dragging a tail of sparks."

In May 2000, there will be a 'grand conjunction' of the planets. Six planets will come into almost perfect alignment with the little Earth stuck in the middle.

Some speculate its 'pull', coupled with that from the Comet, will cause a 'pole shift'. Albert Einstein wrote: "Such displacements may take place as the consequence of comparatively slight forces exerted on the crust...which in turn will tend to alter the axis..."

The prophet Isaiah said God "...will shake the heavens, and the Earth shall remove out of her place..." Cayce predicted a "shifting of the poles" in 2000-2001, and the Hopi Indians believe the Earth's poles are held in place by two enormous celestial angels who will soon abandon their posts as a fast-approaching "Blue Star" enters our solar system.

In the 1930s, Abd-Ru-Shin, prophet of the Grail message, stated: "For years, now, knowing ones have been speaking of the coming of this especially significant Star... It can be called the Star of Bethlehem, because it is of exactly the same nature as that was. Its power sucks the waters up high, brings weather catastrophes and still more. Where encircled by its rays, the Earth quakes... Unerringly and unswervingly the Comet pursues its course and will appear on the scene at the right hour, as already ordained thousands of years ago... And then the Earth is purified and refreshed in every respect for the blessing and joy of its inhabitants..."

In 1934, Edgar Cayce said: "...as has been given of old, the sun will be darkened and the Earth shall be broken up in divers places, and then shall be proclaimed...that *His* Star has appeared..."

It is recorded in Matthew 24 that "...the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in the heaven." It is not unreasonable to think that, if Jesus is about to return, a star will appear as one did at his birth.

In 1934, Edgar Cayce said: "...as has been given of old, the Sun will be darkened and the Earth shall be broken up in divers places, and then shall be proclaimed...that *His* Star has appeared..."

A host of angels also appeared at Jesus' birth, and the Bible predicts Jesus will return with "His Angels".

The Hopi name their "Blue Star" "Kachina", and believe it is controlled by spirit entities, Kachinas, who are capable of manifesting on Earth.

Gordon-Michael Scallion wrote in the March 1993 issue of *Earth Changes Report*: "Now, imagine a star, a blue star, that moves through the heavens at regular cycles, such as a comet, except this celestial object is pure spiritual energy, a star made manifest by spiritual forces, a star composed of light-beings; these angels—souls of the highest level—who, by their own spiritual evolution, joined together as a singular host to serve."

Now that Hale-Bopp is forthcoming, Gordon-Michael Scallion feels certain this comet is the "Blue Star" that he has spoken of—one that he has referred to as a "second sun" in our solar system.

In 1976, Aron Abrahamsen, an intuitive who lives in the United States, also predicted the coming of a new sun: "And one will discover by the year 1998 the appearance of a new sun coming into viewpoint of all people on Earth...not as strong as the present Sun, but it will add a great amount of light to the world, indicating that the world is coming into a new consciousness."

It is said that no important future event occurs without humanity first being told the signs and omens. When prophecies from many persons, from different countries, times and cultures are comparable, then it is unlikely the prophets have been reading each other's mail. The time may be drawing near when we will have to consider the matter seriously.

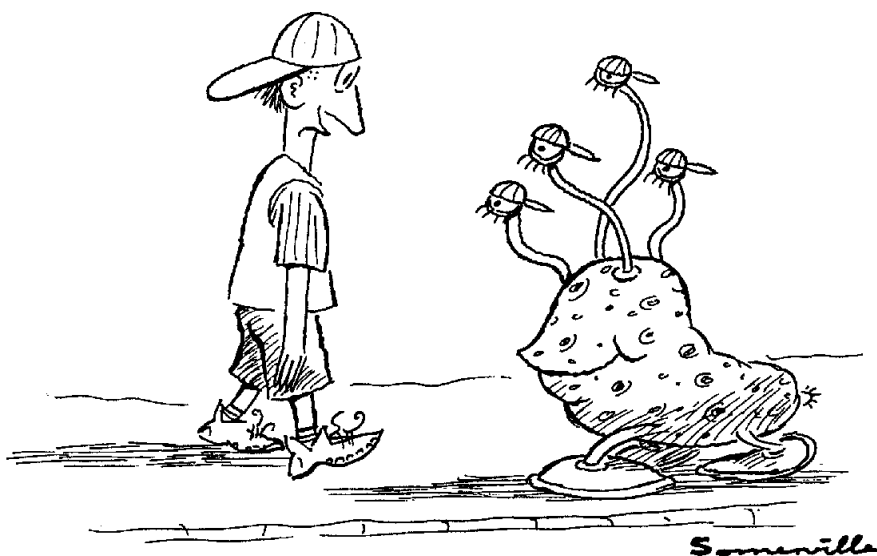
As Edgar Cayce said almost sixty years ago: "As has been indicated, we will begin to understand fully in 1998."

About the Author:

Tom Kay is a researcher and author, and a student of the Edgar Cayce material for 31 years. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA.

His new book, *When The Comet Runs: The Prophecies for the Millennium* (Hampton Roads Publishing Co., Charlottesville, Virginia), is now available and will be reviewed in the April-May '97 issue of NEXUS.

(Source: Gordon-Michael Scallion's *Earth Changes Report*, issue no. 62, November 1996)



HALE-BOPP: THE 'COMPANION' CONTROVERSY

Comet Hale-Bopp is certainly surrounded by controversy. As if being the biggest comet in recent memory weren't enough, Hale-Bopp is thought by some to be accompanied by another object even more portentous. "The companion", as it's being called, is simply a figment of computer glitches and wild imagination, according to all the mainstream astronomers who've so far spoken 'on the record'.

Still, rumours abound that other experts, so far unnamed, do affirm the companion's existence. If it's there at all, it might be a second piece of the comet itself—or some other, as yet unidentified, natural object. But some say it's weirder than that: perhaps sentient, perhaps alien, perhaps a spacecraft of planetary size.

Art Bell Radio Show

Professor Dr Courtney Brown of Emory University, founder of the Farsight Institute and author of the sensational book *Cosmic Voyage*, and famed author and professed abductee, Whitley Strieber, went on Art Bell's syndicated "Coast to Coast" radio show in the early morning hours of Friday 29 November 1996 to announce that a "top astronomer" associated with a "top-10 university" now has definite proof that a huge object, thought to be a "ship" of extraterrestrial origin, is trailing Comet Hale-Bopp.

Chuck Shramek

Over two weeks before, on 10 November, Houston-based amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek imaged something while viewing Hale-Bopp with his 10" telescope, then went on the Art Bell show to describe what appeared to be "a large Saturn-like object" close to Hale-Bopp. This set off a firestorm of controversy on the Internet, in which Shramek was generally denounced. Crushed by the negative publicity, he soon left Texas and went into seclusion in another state, where he reportedly still remains.

Courtney Brown

Having heard of Shramek's image, Courtney Brown assigned three Farsight Institute remote viewers to examine the situation out at Hale-Bopp. On the basis of their findings, Brown asserted on Bell's show that there was indeed a huge, second object that was apparently under intelligent control. The ensuing controversy, which dismayed Shramek, did nothing to dampen Brown's insistence that the mysterious second object does exist.

Appearing again on the Art Bell program the morning of 29 November, Brown went even further. He said that after the first round of viewing sessions nearly two weeks before, he had quietly gone about seeking hard confirmation of his findings among professional astronomers. Now, he said, he has received pho-

tographs from, and talked "for many hours" with, an internationally known astronomer who works at a "top-10 university", who positively confirms that there is an extraordinary second object that appears to be a "ship" under intelligent control.

Dr Brown refused to give the name of the astronomer or the university, stating that this man is currently deliberating his next steps in consultation with his family and professional colleagues. "This is a free-will universe, and this man must make his own decision," Brown stated on the air. Art Bell said that he had in his possession copies of the photographs, which are described as of such high quality that, if they were posted on the Internet, their origin would be easy to determine. Bell said he does not know the name of the astronomer.

Dr Brown also stated that a radio astronomer, a colleague of the other astronomer, had discovered evidently intelligent radio signals coming from the Hale-Bopp object. Brown said it should soon be possible to announce the exact frequency on which the signals could be heard, so that others can verify them.

Brown stated his belief that the astronomer would call a press conference within one week to announce his findings, but he noted there were bound to be very serious repercussions to such a step, and that the astronomer might decide against it, at least for now.

Whitley Strieber

Whitley Strieber appeared later on the same program to assert his conviction that the photos, along with the astronomer's testimony, did indeed represent evidence of a huge, intelligently guided object travelling with Hale-Bopp. Strieber spent most of his two hours on the program talking about his own experiences of contact with "the visitors" and how humans might respond and adjust to the imminent certainty of extraterrestrial life visiting the Earth.



COMET HALE-BOPP AND 'COMPANION'?

This image (HBST961110-19) was allegedly taken by the Hubble Space Telescope on 10 November 1996. Like the controversial image taken by Houston-based amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek, this photograph shows an unusually large, bright object in the vicinity of Comet Hale-Bopp.

Does this image show a 'companion' travelling in the Comet's tail? Remote viewer Courtney Brown and author Whitley Strieber, among others, say yes. But mainstream astronomers, so far without exception, say it's just a distant star distorted by the imaging process itself. The controversy continues...

Confirmation of Comet 'Companion'?

If these claims are true, it can't be long before anyone with a reasonably good telescope can confirm that the second object is there. Thus, if it *is* there, some kind of announcement seems a certainty before long.

On the other hand, if it is *not* there, Courtney Brown and Whitley Strieber, among others, will certainly be denounced. Both they and Art Bell acknowledged that talking about this on the air put them all at risk of grave ridicule, or worse.

(Sources: various Internet discussion groups, plus CNI News, vol. 2, no. 18, Part 1, 1 December 1996; e-mail: CNINews1@aol.com; web: <http://www.iscni.com/>)

Dr Lee Shargel

On 2 December 1996, a scientist familiar with official astronomical studies finally stepped forward to speak about this bizarre object. Dr Lee Shargel, a graduate of Northeastern University who holds degrees in industrial engineering and robotics and a doctorate in materials science, has worked for NASA as an engineer/scientist with Top Secret clearance on the TDRS, Hubble telescope and SRBOC projects. He has come forward to announce that this is no anomaly of any telescope or misguided software, much less a ball of swamp gas, a flock of geese or a trick on the eye. In fact, Dr Shargel possesses his own set of 17 photographs of this object accompanying Hale-Bopp.

Shargel has gone one step further than merely announcing the object's existence: he has asserted that it is no less than a space craft, a "probe"! He has also said that the message coming from the Hale-Bopp companion is a greeting as well as a warning. The warning has to do with a neutron star explosion, the radiation from which is heading toward the Earth.

Ex-Vatican Priest

Art Bell received the following fax from a priest who used to work at the Vatican, and read it over the air the next morning.

From: Name@Withheld
To: artbell@aol.com
Date: 11 December 1996

Dear Mr Bell,

I have listened to your program off and on for around two years now, whenever I get 'down-time'. I have some disturbing information and I feel that your program would be the perfect vehicle with which to distribute what I have.

I have been under the employ of the Vatican for over five years. I have done what could best be described as counter-intelligence work for the Church. I am a man of God, and please believe me when I tell you that the information I have is genuine and very serious.

Without going into too much detail about my former employers, I will briefly tell you that I have had a top-level security clearance in the Vatican for quite some time. Most of the work I have done regrettably falls into the realm of 'black ops', and I will not go into detail about that now.

Around six months ago I was working at a data terminal in a highly restricted area, following a case that I had just completed, when I stumbled onto something that nearly made my heart stop. Please pay attention here; this is where it gets strange.

I uncovered a heavily encrypted sub-system that was surprisingly well-hidden. I found that it was only accessible through the terminal I was at, and one other terminal. (I must point out that the area I was in was not an area that I routinely used.) After two minutes of trying to get into the system, the whole lab shut itself down and I was booted off the terminal. Not wanting to raise any eyebrows, I decided to leave and come back later that night. The strange thing was, when I came back there were ARMED guards standing sentry outside of the lab. I must say that it is not unusual to see guards roaming the Vatican, but that it is very unusual for them to stand sentry at a lab, much less while armed.

Over the next month, I managed to slip in unnoticed only once. And after I had found what I came for, I understood the security.

It took me a good deal of time to break into the system, and

when I did, I wished I hadn't. When I entered the system, I came across a file titled "WORMWOOD?" (yes, with a question mark). Thinking it to be a text file, I brought up the file with the intent of copying so I could read it later. What happened next was truly remarkable. The file sort of 'deteriorated' into a series of command lines that lasted approximately two minutes. Once it was done running, there it was.

I had found a direct link-up to the Hubble space telescope. Not only that, but it was pointed directly at the Comet Hale-Bopp. The program was running some kind of analysis, taking directional notes, projecting path of travel, etc. After realizing what I had discovered, I started searching and came across an e-mail data trail that led directly to the office of the Pope himself. What was discussed, I cannot know.

Over the next two weeks, I began to uncover evidence that the Vatican is very aware of the existence of the companion, and is VERY worried about it. I began to copy files and pictures that were present at the terminal when I found a report from the United Nations to the Vatican, as well as a report from NASA, regarding their concerns.

It is very obvious to me that a great many people and entities know of the companion and are doing their best to keep quiet. VERY quiet. As the next part of my story illustrates.

I had found another file that I wanted to look at, but it was independently encrypted. At the time that I discovered it, I had already been online at the terminal for some time, so I decided to copy the file encrypted and decode it at my leisure. As I was leaving the lab, I was approached by two of the Pope's top aides and was asked to meet them later in the evening. I didn't feel comfortable about the situation, so I agreed and told them that I needed to shower and would join them later. I haven't been back to the Vatican since.

I found out about a week later through some old friends and contacts that a contract had been placed on my life. Two days later, my mother and father were killed in a car crash in France. Three days after that, my brother and sister were killed when their single-engine plane went down on the east coast of the US. I've been on the run for a very long time now, and am still trying to decode the file that I have in my possession. Approximately ten copies have been distributed to friends in the field, in the event that I should disappear. I do not fear for my life, as I am very adept at not being found; however, I believe that the world needs to know of the information that I have.

I would be willing to share all that I have with you, Mr Bell. But you need to understand that your life could be in danger if you were to go public with what I give you. I apologise for being so vague, but I feel it necessary at this point in time.

If you would like the information, say so over the air when you get this letter. If I am not listening, someone will get the information to me, as there is no safe way for you to contact me at this point in time. I await your response.

(Priest)

Art Bell commented after reading the fax: "Now, when I received this I sat and thought about it for some time. So, I contacted someone who has been very high in Rome—whom I am not going to mention on the air; someone who would definitely know about the validity of what I received. That person's response to me was: 'This is real. Don't touch it with a ten-foot pole. Don't ever send something like this over an open fax-line again, and I don't want to talk about it anymore.'"

(Source: various Internet web sites and discussion groups)